

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7472

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ETRD, PFOR, UNCTAD, CIEC, US, IN

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES - U.S.-GOI DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 189629

1. EMBASSY AGREES THAT ARRANGEMENT TO GIVE SERIES OF BRIEFINGS TO COMMERCIAL MINISTER DIXIT IN WASHINGTON SHOULD MAKE HIM AND THROUGH HIM THE GOI MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE U.S. POSITION ON MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES.

2. DCM AND ECON/COUN IN THEIR MEETINGS WITH ANY GOI OFFICIALS EVEN REMOTELY CONNECTED WITH MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, HAVE DISCUSSED U.S. POSITIONS AND RATIONALE BEHIND THEM. WE HAVE BEEN AIDED IN THIS REGARD BY EXCELLENT SERIES OF TELEGRAMS DESCRIBING THE ISSUES AND POSITIONS OF G-19, G-8 AND U.S. IN BROAD TERMS AT UNCTAD IV, AT CIEC MEETINGS, AND IN THE MTNS.

3. OUR PURPOSE AT THIS END, HOWEVER, IS NOT ONLY TO EXPLAIN U.S. POSITION BUT TO PROBE GOI THINKING ON THESE MATTERS AND TO DETERMINE WHERE DIFFERENCES WITHIN GOI EXIST AND HOW BEST TO EXPLOIT THEM. WE ARE AWARE VISITS BY DIXIT AND BAIJAL ARE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE BY DEPARTMENT AS WELL, BUT WE ARE CON-

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CERNED THAT THEIR STATEMENTS MAY BE VIEWED AS REPRESENTING POSI-

TIONS GOI WILL TAKE AT MULTILATERALS.

4. WE HAVE FOUND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE APPEARS TO BE DIFFERENCES WITHIN GOI ON WHAT POSITION INDIA SHOULD TAKE ON MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. MOST OFFICIALS OF THE FINANCE AND COMMERCE MINISTRIES TEND TO VIEW INDIA'S INTERESTS FROM A MORE PRAGMATIC ECONOMIC STANDPOINT AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, LEAN TOWARD ACCOMMODATION WITH G-8. FROM THEM WE HEAR THAT INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAMS DO NOT BENEFIT INDIA, THAT INDIA SHOULD MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS IN SOME FORM IN MTNS, ETC. FROM WHAT WE READ IN REFTEL, MESSRS. DIXIT AND BAIJAL SEEM TO BE VOICING THIS STANDPOINT.

5. OTHER OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY IN MEA, ON THE OTHER HAND, TEND TO TAKE POSITIONS MORE IN LINE WITH THOSE HELD BY THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP. THEY VIEW INDIA'S INTERESTS IN MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES MORE IN TERMS OF THEIR POLITICAL IMPORTANCE--AMONG LDCS AND NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. THEIR TACTICAL PRIORITY IS COOPERATION IN G-19. FROM THEM WE HEAR OF NEED FOR GREATER TRANSFER OF RESOURCES, THE RIGHT TO PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT IN TRADE, ETC.

6. AT THIS TIME OUR ASSESSMENT THAT INDIA'S ROLE IN THESE MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE BUT NOT A LEADING ONE, STEMS FROM BELIEF THAT IT IS LOGICAL RESULT OF A COMPROMISE WITHIN GOI ON THESE TWO ALMOST OPPOSITE VIEWS. IT FOLLOWS FROM THIS THAT INDIA'S POSITIONS AT ANY ONE CONFERENCE CAN BE INFLUENCED TO SOME DEGREE BY THE INDIVIDUAL AND MINISTRY THAT LEADS THE DELEGATION.

7. MUCH OF THIS IS SPECULATION ON OUR PART, HOWEVER, AND WE ARE ANXIOUS TO PROBE FURTHER. TO DO THIS EFFECTIVELY, EMBASSY NEEDS MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES AND VIEWS EXPRESSED BY GOI OFFICIALS AT THE MEETINGS, AND MORE INFORMATION ON THE EFFECT OUR VARIOUS PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE ON INDIA SPECIFICALLY. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN PRESENTING U.S. VIEWS IF WE KNEW NOT ONLY WHAT DIXIT SAYS, BUT WHAT WE ARE TELLING DIXIT--THE SPECIFIC POINTS WE WANT TO MAKE TO THE GOI.

8. WE BELIEVE THESE EFFORTS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND NEW DELHI WILL KEEP U.S. DELEGATION AT MULTILATERAL CONFERENCES WELL INFORMED ON INDIA'S VIEWS, AND THE GOI FULLY AWARE OF OURS.

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